

Crappie Regulation Changes Under Consideration at Smithville Lake & Lake Wappapello

Public Input Summary



Fishing at the spillway below dam at Lake Wappapello

Missouri Department of Conservation
November 2018



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Executive Summary

- The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has received a significant amount of complaints the last five years on the quality of the crappie fishery at Lake Wappapello and Smithville Lakes.
- During August and September three open houses were held to gather public input regarding possible regulation changes on both Lake Wappapello and Smithville lakes.
- Approximately 30 staff from 5 divisions worked the events.
- A total of 99 people attended the three open houses providing 17 comments at the event with others providing their comments online.
- From August 1-September 30 folks provided over 124 comments online.
- Folks who provided comments were:
 - Predominately male
 - Majority between the ages 55-74
 - Heard about the proposed regulation changes from a friend/neighbor or social media
 - Believed the current regulations were hurting crappie fishing
 - Willing to harvest crappie less than 9 inches if they could keep 30 crappie daily
 - The majority fished for crappie 11-25 times per year
 - Considered themselves anglers
- The most common themes include (in order of the most comments received):
 - Support of the New Regulations
 - General Comments
 - Size Limit
 - Catch Limit
 - General Suggestion
 - Conservation Agents
 - Open Houses
- The public shared concerns about catching a much higher proportion of sublegal fish than legal fish. An in-depth look at the current population and its response to the past regulation implemented in 2006 has been on-going. **The analysis of the data revealed that the current regulation is not producing the desired result.**

Introduction

Fisheries Division proposed new regulations changes for crappie at Lake Wappapello and Smithville reservoirs to increase harvest opportunities for anglers and improve the crappie fishery. Current crappie regulations at both reservoirs (nine-inch minimum length and 15 fish per day) resulted in large populations of small (under the nine-inch minimum length limit) fish.

Through regulation population monitoring of the crappie at both reservoirs, the Fisheries Management Biologists have documented a shift in the Black/White crappie populations where Black crappie are now the dominant crappie species in each lake (50% of crappie in Wappapello and 80% in Smithville). Staff have documented that White crappie have a good growth potential and can reach nine inches and larger quickly (in 3 years) in these reservoirs. Black crappie does not grow quickly and often die before they reach the current legal minimum limit.

The Fisheries Division is proposing a liberalization of current regulations at both Lake Wappapello and Smithville lakes to allow additional harvest of smaller black crappie to balance and improve the crappie fishery at each lake. **The proposal includes moving to a 30 fish per day with no more than 15 fish over nine inches.**

Smithville Lake is 7,200-acre lake, construction completed in 1982 with its primary purpose is flood control. With Smithville lake being close to both Kansas City and St. Joseph making it a popular fishing location in the region receiving an estimated 1.3 million visitors per year with an economic benefit of \$52 million dollars in visitor spending per year.

Wappapello Lake is an 8,400-acre lake that was constructed in 1941 with its primary purpose being flood control and recreation is very important. Wappapello Lake is 120 miles south of St. Louis and the only reservoir of this size in the eastern part of Missouri with an estimated visitation of 1 million people per year.

The goal of the regulation changes under consideration are to liberalize the current regulation, by increasing the harvest (making more fish available to anglers), allowing a significant harvest of black crappie and helping improve the growth of both species of crappie in both reservoirs.

Open Houses

Open House Summary:

During August and September, three Open House meetings were conducted to gather public input regarding proposed regulation changes under consideration for crappie at both Smithville and Lake Wappapello reservoirs, along with a web page to collect additional comments from those who were unable to attend an Open House.

The meetings did have a formal presentation with questions asked of the biologist after the PowerPoint. When the presentation and questions were completed participants had the opportunity to talk with a variety of staff in an open-house format. The presentation began at 6 p.m. and the open house was finished by 8 p.m. Participants visited booths focusing on the proposed regulation changes.

The Fisheries Division is proposing a liberalization of current regulations at both Lake Wappapello and Smithville lakes to allow additional harvest of smaller black crappie to balance and improve the crappie fishery at each lake. **The proposal includes moving to a 30 fish per day with no more than 15 fish over nine inches.**

Smithville Open House-Location and Summary

August 28, 2018- 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

United States Army Corps of Engineers Jerry Litton Visitors Center
16311 County Road DD, Smithville, MO 64089

- 37 people attended the open house
- Questions participants had after the power point:
 - How will we manage the fish that are caught?
 - Why can't we keep smaller fish?
 - When will this regulation go into effect?
 - Any thought of keeping all black crappie under 9 inches?
 - If you take all of the black crappie out, what will happen to the white crappie?
 - Is the walleye eating the crappie?
 - How many walleye are you stocking in the lake?
 - Can we get a nice fish cleaning station?
 - How do you measure success?
 - Can you change the possession limits?
 - Is this a forage issue?
- Participants had the opportunity to look at maps, fill out public input forms and talk with staff.
- Most of the participants took a public input form with four of them being turned in.
 - Comments include:
 - Why not protect the under 9 inch white crappie?

- Need to try something. A lot of little fish die anyway being released. Why not limit white crappie to 10 fish?
- The new proposed regulation sounds good to me.
- I recommend that fish under 9 inches must be black crappie. No whites under 10 inches
- Folks who provided comments:
 - Were from Plattsburg and Smithville.
 - Were men between the ages of 35-74.
 - They heard about the proposed regulations from:
 - Social media
 - “Other” Website
 - Burton’s Bait and Tackle
 - They only fished Smithville Lake.
 - They fished 26-75+ times/year.
 - They believe the current crappie regulations have hurt the crappie fishing.
 - They are willing to harvest crappie less than 9 inches in size if they can keep 30 crappie daily.

Wappapello Open House-Location and Summary

September 17, 2018-6:00 pm-8:00 pm

New Home General Baptist Church

1864 Hwy AA, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

- 42 people attended this open house.
- Questions participants had after the Power Point included:
 - Why don’t you separate black crappie from white crappie?
 - I agree with the regulation, but can’t you get rid of the black crappie?
 - Can we do something else, I don’t want to measure crappie?
 - With this regulation, how long will it take to catch 9 inch fish?
 - When will this proposed regulation go into effect?
 - The current regulation is hurting the economy.
 - Why can’t we get rid of black crappie?
- Participants had the opportunity to look at maps, fill out public input forms and talk with staff.
- Most of the participants took a public input form with 13 of them being turned in.
 - Comments include:
 - I am all for the new regulations. Bout time.
 - I think you are headed in the right direction
 - I fear that the proposed regulation will do nothing by help the lake.
 - I hope this proposal passes 100% (3 people).
 - I support the change 100%. The homework has been done and makes sense to me.
 - I support the proposal (2 people).
 - Move forward with the new regulation.
 - It is worth a try.
 - Folks who provided comments:

- Were from Cape Girardeau, Whitewater, Dexter, Bernie and Poplar Bluff,
- Were mostly men between the ages of 35-74.
- Everyone considered themselves an angler.
- They heard about the proposed regulations from:
 - Friend or neighbor
 - Social media
 - Newspaper
 - MDC employee
- They only fished Lake Wappapello.
- They fished for crappie at Lake Wappapello 1-75+ times/year.
- All but two people believed the current crappie regulations have hurt the crappie fishing, one of the two believed that fishing has improved and the other believes it is unchanged.
- Everybody except one indicated they were willing to harvest crappie less than 9 inches in size if they can keep 30 crappie daily.

Wappapello Open House-Location and Summary

September 18, 2018-6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Greenville Elementary Gymnasium

195 Walnut St., Greenville, MO 63944

- 20 people attend this open house
- Questions that were asked after the presentation included:
 - Can you have any combination of 30 fish? Can I have 15 white and 15 black or 20 black and 10 white?
 - Is there no minimum size limit?
 - Do I have to keep my black crappie and white crappie separate?
 - Part of the problem with fishing here is that we are all old.
 - When will this proposed regulation go into effect?
 - The current regulation is hurting the economy.
 - Why can't we get rid of black crappie?
 - Most anglers don't know how to fish for crappie
 - Why don't you put hybrid striped bass in the lake?
- Participants had the opportunity to look at maps, fill out public input forms and talk with staff.
- Seven public input forms were turned in.
 - Comments include:
 - I support the regulation change.
 - I think this is a wonderful change. I wish it could take effect sooner.
 - I fully support the new regulation & am looking forward to improved crappie fishing @ Wappapello.
 - I hope it works just got to try something.
 - Folks who provided comments:
 - Were from Farmington, Piedmont, Patterson and Poplar Bluff,
 - Were mostly men between the ages of 35-75+.
 - Everyone considered themselves an angler.

- They heard about the proposed regulations from:
 - Friend or neighbor
 - Social media
 - Newspaper
 - MDC employee
 - *Missouri Conservationist* magazine
- They only fished Lake Wappapello.
- They fished for crappie at Lake Wappapello 26-75+ times/year.
- Everyone believed the current crappie regulations have hurt the crappie fishing except one person who believed that fishing has improved.
- Everybody except indicated they were willing to harvest crappie less than 9 inches in size if they can keep 30 crappie daily.

Themes and Issues

The following themes are issues are listed in order of how many comments were received in that theme. The letter in the front of the sentence is representative of which reservoir the commenter was referring to, for example (S) or (W) or (B) for both.

The comments are in the words of that the respondent entered online.

(S – Smithville Lake; W -Lake Wappapello; B – Smithville & Lake Wappapello)

Support of New Regulation

(S) I believe this to be a step in the right direction. I support it wholeheartedly. I fish mostly Truman and LOZ, but this change would make it worthwhile to bring the boat back up north and make regular trips to Smithville.
(W) I feel the 30-daily limit, only keeping 15 over 9 inches would work.
(W) I hope this proposal passes 100%

General Comments

(S) Recently went with a friend and caught 40-50. Maybe 6 would have been over 9 inches. We didn't keep any that day. But something needs to change.
(W) I feel like the limit in place now has really taken a toll on the fishing. You can fish all day and catch 150+ fish and out of all the fish caught you may have 5 keepers if you're lucky. And with that being said the economy around the lake has went downhill by a land slide.
(W) I have fish Wappapello lake for over 45 years when you mdc put a size limit on the lake it started going downhill quickly now for the most part you might catch 20 keepers out of 200+ crappie..i will not go to this place for crappie anymore til the condition change ..it's not only the size limits restriction it's also the water level that changes when they move up to spawn...I live 15 miles from the lake but choose to fish other waters because of the poor quality of fish in the lake ..MDC AN THE CORP HAS MESSED THIS FISHERY UP .NOW YOU WANT TOO TRY AN FIX IT I DONT THINK YOU WILL EVER GET IT BACK TOO WHERE IT WAS JUST 10 YRS AGO...BUT I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST

Size Limit

(S) Length should be 10".
(W) A slot limit comes to mind where 7 to 10-inch fish are keepers and 10 to 12" fish are released and larger fish may be harvested.
W) Drop the 9" to many fish in the 8-7" range

Catch Limit

(S) Just make it a limit of 30 crappie, only 15 may be white. That would insure black crappie are harvested if people wanted to take 30 crappie

(W) increase the creel to 30 yet allow 15 blacks and 15 whites.
or raise the length to 12" on whites and no length on the blacks.

(B) I think it should be 15 a day with a 9in size limit

General Suggestions

(W) The lack of food has kept the crappie from getting bigger. I suggest a large stock of breeding minnows, small enough for small crappie to can feed on. The gizzard shad in the lake are too big for small crappie, they need a different breed that stays small.

(W) Crappie don't have enough to eat it seems like. What if tons of small shad were dumped onto the lakes that do not grow over 2 inches in length. They would reproduce thus giving black and white crappie plenty to feed on

(W) There are probably too many crappie for the food supply available, so maybe this would allow the others to grow larger and faster. I'm not sure if this is really the case, but I have been told by others that Wappapello has an overabundance of gizzard shad which grow rapidly and outgrow the needed size for crappie to feed on. Does Wappapello have threadfin shad, which grow slower and therefore are a better baitfish? If not, maybe stocking threadfin shad would eventually solve part of the problem with under-sized crappie.

Protection

(S) You would like to see more fish and game checks. I myself have witnessed people keeping anything that they catch. And the really sad part is when you call the conservation department to report someone and you get a voicemail. I left a message and 3 days later he called me back. How great of service is that. Thanks, MCD for being on top of your job. Not just on the MCD because Smithville has their own Park Rangers to. So much money to fish this lake and just terrible fishing

Open House

(S) The meeting was very well done, and the facts presented absolutely support the code adjustments proposed.

(W) I am in total agreement with the new proposed regulation for Wappapello Lake, even more so after hearing Dave Knuth's presentation last night at Poplar Bluff. Good job Southeast

(W) I think the group of people that put the meeting on in poplar Bluff did an exceptional job explaining the history of the lake and the proposed regulations are just about perfect.

Questionnaire Results

124 respondents completed the *Comment on the proposed regulation change* survey that was conducted in FY19 on newly proposed crappie regulations for Smithville Lake and Lake Wappapello (<https://mdc.mo.gov/contact-engage/public-comment-opportunities/proposed-crappie-regulation-changes>).

42 comments originated from Smithville, 74 from Wappapello, four from both, and 4 were unspecified.

Respondents' Gender

	Combined	Smithville	Wappapello	Both
Male	47	15	29	1
Female	4	0	4	0
Unidentified	77	27	45	3

Respondents' Age

	Combined	Smithville	Wappapello	Both
20-34	4	2	2	
35-54	19	6	11	
55-74	28	6	21	1
75 and older	2	1	1	
No response	75	27	43	3

How did you hear about the proposed regulation changes?

	Combined	Smithville	Wappapello	Both
Conservationist Magazine	2	0	2	0
Friend or neighbor	14	4	9	1
MDC employee	5	0	5	0
MDC website	4	3	1	0
Newspaper	7	1	6	0
Other	4	0	4	0
Other website	2	2	0	0
Social media	15	5	9	0

How do you believe crappie regulations have affected crappie fishing?

	Combined	Smithville	Wappapello	Both
Hurt	86	28	53	3
Helped	13	4	7	0
Unchanged	28	10	18	0
No response	1	0	0	1

Would you harvest crappie less than 9 inches in size if you could keep 30 crappie daily?

	Combined	Smithville	Wappapello	Both
Yes	109	35	68	2
No	19	7	10	2

How many times per year do you fish?

	Combined	Smithville	Wappapello	Both
1-10 times/year	37	14	20	1
11-25 times/year	45	20	24	0
26-50 times/year	27	6	19	2
51-75 times/year	5	1	4	0
76+ times/year	12	1	11	0
No response	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	123	42	74	4

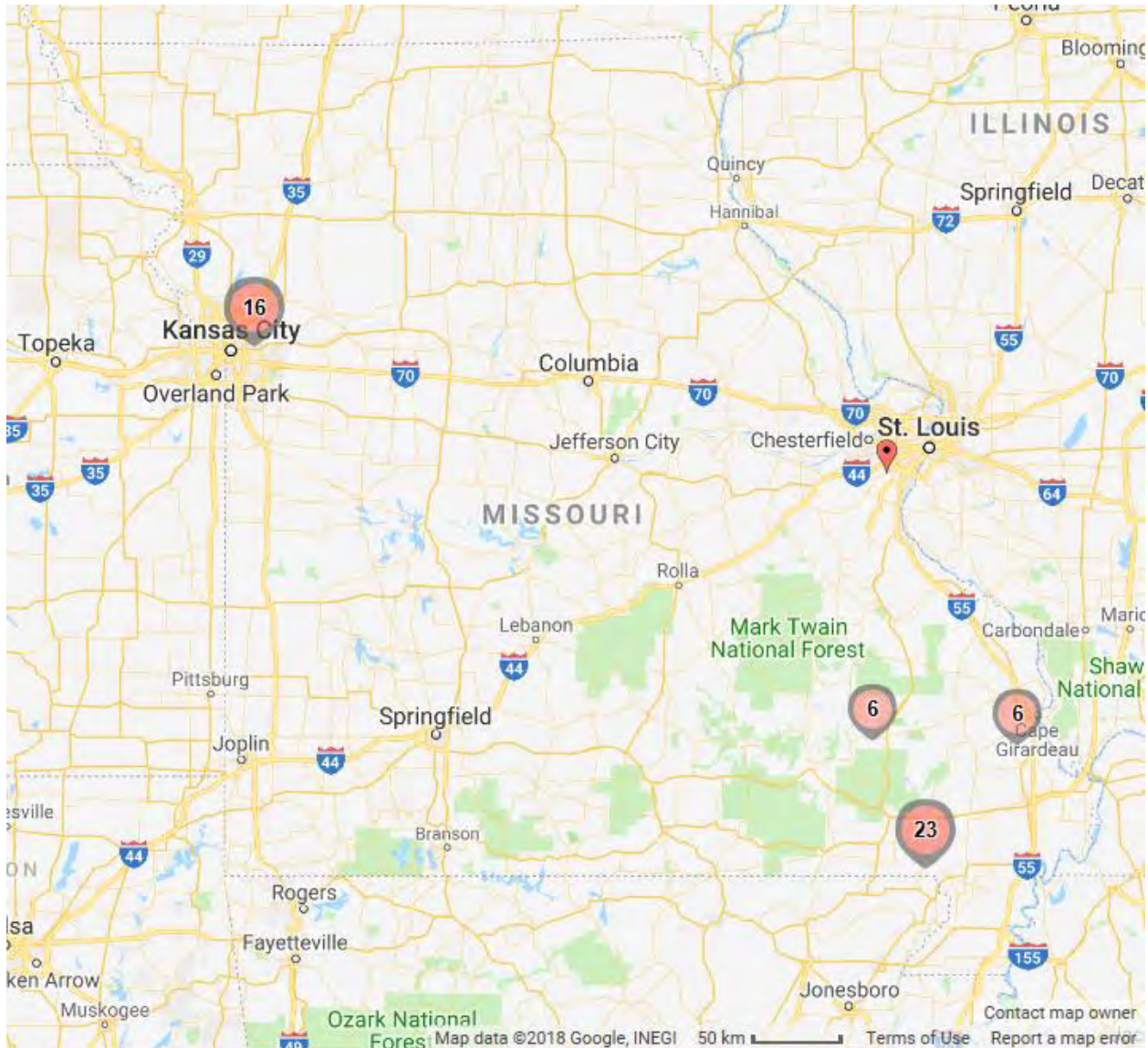
Do you consider yourself an angler?

	Combined	Smithville	Wappapello	Both
Yes	53	15	35	1
No	0	0	0	0
No response	75	27	43	3
TOTAL	124	42	74	4

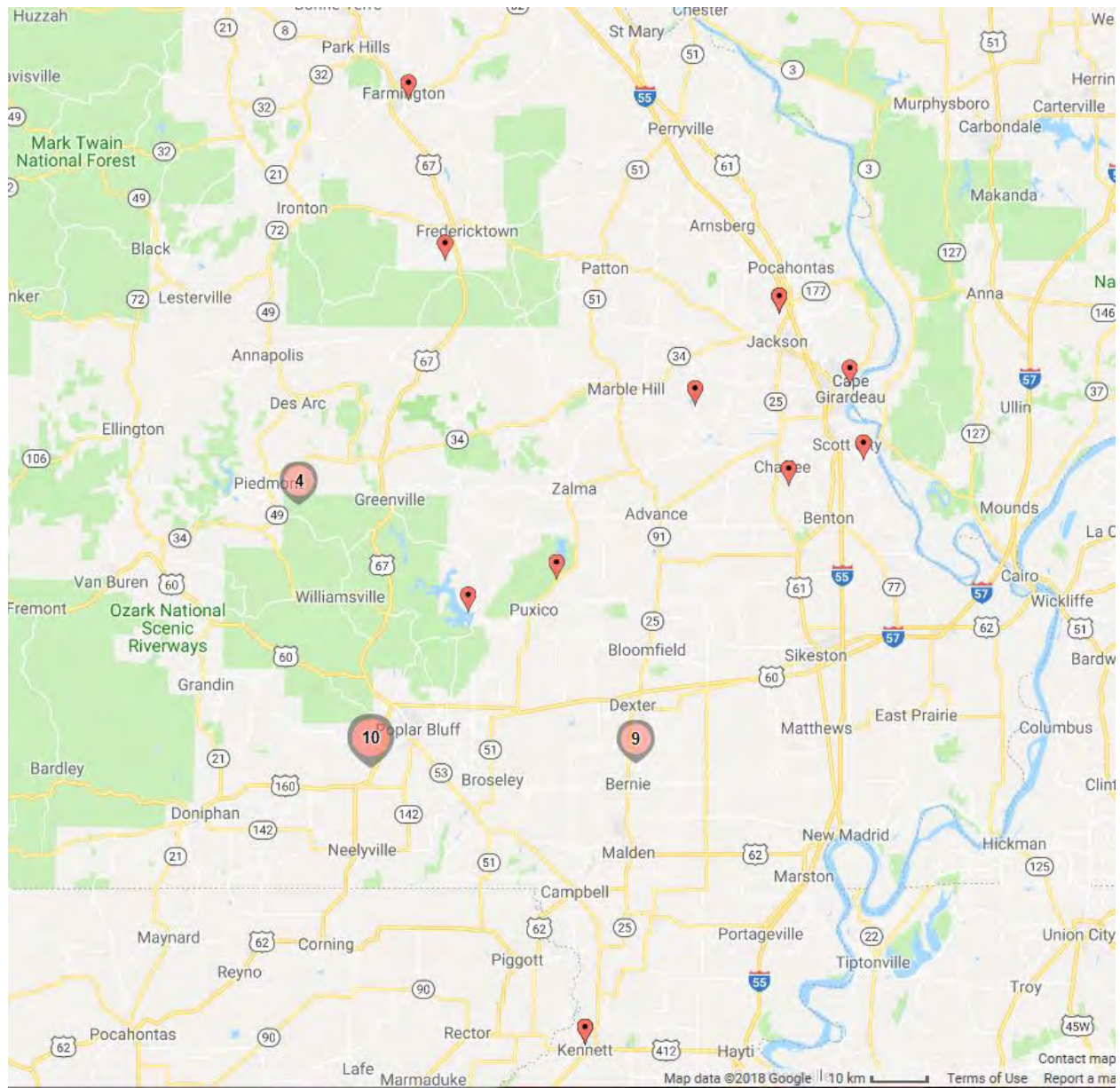
Map of Respondents

Lake Wappapello and Smithville Lake Combined

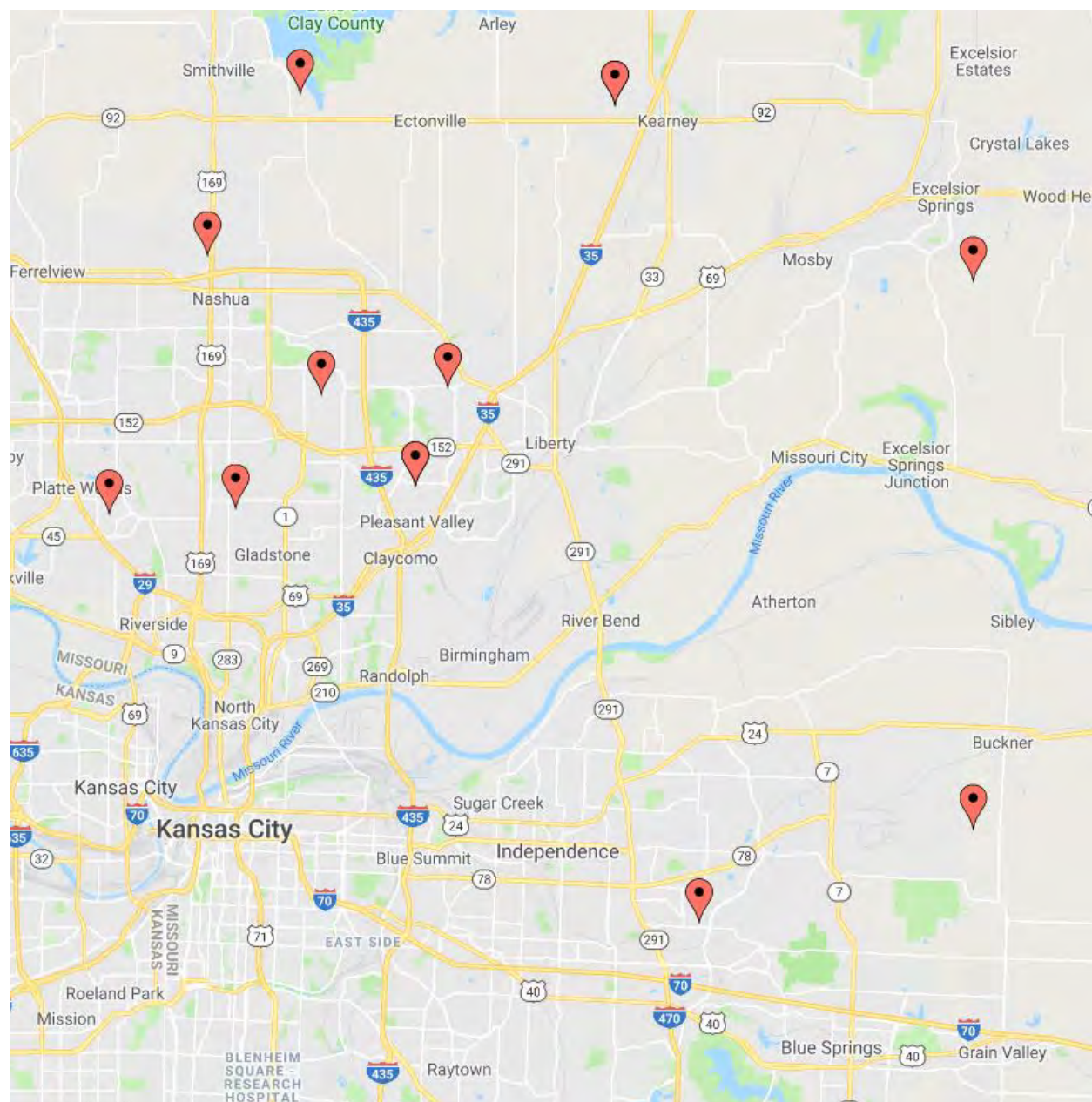
The pinpoints below represent the geographic center of ZIP code boundaries from which a public comment was received (they do not represent actual street addresses). Shaded circles with numbers in them represent multiple responses from a region. Mapped using <http://batchgeo.com/>.



Lake Wappapello - Southeast Region



Smithville Lake - Kansas City Region



All Comments by Theme

(S – Smithville Lake; W -Lake Wappapello; B – Smithville & Lake Wappapello)

Support of New Regulation

(S) This is a good proposal. Should have been started several years back when hundreds (thousands) of old black crappie died in the heat of summer. Hope it can get into the regulations soon.
(S) I believe this to be a step in the right direction. I support it wholeheartedly. I fish mostly Truman and LOZ, but this change would make it worthwhile to bring the boat back up north and make regular trips to Smithville.
(S) When we fish we'll only catch a few that are at the 9-inch length the majority are just under and are thrown back. It gets discouraging to even go once past the spawn. I'm all in favor of this, we'll be catching pretty close to the 9 inches and helping the others grow bigger, win win.
(S) I attended the meeting at the Litton Center and am totally in favor of the regulation changes. If approval is granted it will be an interesting to see if fishermen will see the vital importance of their role in what is trying to be accomplished. This will work if and only if the allowed number of the under 9-inch crappie are kept when caught and not returned to the lake. If fishermen do not they will have only themselves to blame if the current trend continues. I plan on having a lot of crappie to eat at my house.
(S) I don't really keep fish until fall or winter time a few in the spring but I believe a 30-fish limit would help Smithville it's a Great Lake and I was raised in Smithville and fish it often I will say my person best crappie from Smithville was 16.5" and it was a black crappie.
(S) From personal experience in trying to manage crappie populations in my private ponds I have found that most people do not want to, or will not, harvest smaller crappie. I hope the regulation change will help. I have had success in increasing the average size of crappie in our two larger ponds (5 acres each) by personally harvesting as many of the "potato chip-fillet-sized crappie and encouraging others to do the same. Management does work if people will cooperate. Disclaimer: In the past I fished Smithville lake frequently but have not fished there recently. Friends have related catching hundreds of the small crappie in one day.
(S) I like the new proposal
(W) It is about time
(W) I support proposal (X2)
(W) I hope this proposal passes
(W) I support the change 100%. The homework has been done and makes sense to me!
(W) I hope this proposal passes
(W) I hope this proposal passes 100%
(W) I think you are headed in the right direction
(W) I support the regulation change.
(W) It's well worth a try
(W) Do what needs to be done

(W) Sounds OK
(W) Move forward with new Reg.
(W) I think this is a wonderful change. I wish it could take effect sooner!
(W) I fully support the new regulation and am looking forward to improved crappie fishing @ Wappapello.
(W) I hope it works just gotta try something
(W) I support the new proposed regulation change and will attend the September 17th meeting at Poplar Bluff also. I appreciate all the effort that has been put into this proposed change, just wish it had not taken this long to be addressed. See you on the 17th in PB!
(W) I think this change would greatly help to regulate both black and white crappie.
(W) Sounds like MDC has studied the black crappie max length and come to a reasonable recommendation on the limits.
(W) This change is way overdue! Glad to see the MDC is considering the changes that have been needed for a few years now. Helping reduce the population of small undersized fish should help the overall fish population of the lake, including bass, catfish, and all other species. Baitfish will be more plentiful for larger fish and it will give the lake a better balance. Not to mention putting a lot of great table fare in peoples friers!
(W) Please change it to the proposed regulations. Love to fish for crappie but when all I catch are the 83/4-inch ones makes it pretty tough to have fresh fish...Please change the limits
(W) I think the proposed regulations that the meeting was about will definitely help the crappie harvest.
(W) I think the proposed regulation change will be a good thing and can't go into effect soon enough. Thanks
(W) I like the new proposed regulation. I think it would help reduce the amount of smaller crappie in the lake by allowing anglers to harvest at least 15 to 30 small crappie.
(W) If I can improve the growth of fish and the fishing opportunity at the lake I by following the proposed regulation, I am in favor of the regulation. It will also give me the opportunity to take some fish home with me while at the same time bring more anglers to the area which will improve the economic growth of the Wappapello area.
(W) I am new to fishing Wappapello and support any decision made by MDC. The fish there are smaller than Lake of the Ozarks and Beaver Lake. We caught about 50 8" crappie one day while only catching about 6 keepers. Thank you for working to make a better experience.
(W) We would welcome the proposed change in regulation. We do not fish as much as we used to because we cannot catch fish over 9 inches. We will fish a lot more if the change is made.
(W) I believe Wappapello is over abundant with white crappie below the current length limit as well as with the amount of fishing pressure the fish above the length limit are being taken out in vast number therefore making it difficult to catch more than 10 legal fish on any given day... the propose regulation would help a great deal .. looking forward to the changes...
(W) I would like a 30-crappie limit with only 15 over 9 inches.

(W) If the limit was changed to 30 limit with no more than 15 over 9 inches there would be more people fish because they would be able to keep their 30 and I don't think that will hurt the lake at all. I believe it will improve the growth of the fish. And it will also help the economy around the lake.

(W) I feel the 30 daily limit, only keeping 15 over 9 inches would work.

(B) I think the change will be a good thing!!

General Comments

(S) At Smithville, a large group of guys have been catching and cleaning thousands of crappie a year off the Camp Branch and Paradise Point docks. They keep the larger white crappie and release the smaller blacks. This has been going on for years! I've talked to guys that commented "I used to clean about 6,000 crappie each year from this area, but now I'm down to less than half". That's crazy! Who is policing this? This group of guys is largely responsible for destroying the white crappie population in our lake. I agree with the proposal, but fixing this issue is a part of overall solution!

(S) I agree with the MDC assessment of the crappie population at Smithville. I have caught from 25 to 30 undersized crappie in order to catch a limit of legal fish. I have also seen the black crappie die and measured them to see that they were under 9". I would support harvesting more of these small crappie in order to improve the fishery.

(S) Thank you for looking into fixing the crappie fishing situation at Smithville lake. We always catch a lot of them when I take my boys out fishing, but very few we catch are keeper size. When would the decision be made to change the regulations though? Still this fishing season or next year? The sooner the better in my opinion.

(S) Smithville is heavily fished, but there seems to be an excessively number of crappie below 9".

(S) Recently went with a friend and caught 40-50. Maybe 6 would have been over 9 inches. We didn't keep any that day. But something needs to change.

(S) I am unsure how the current regulations have impacted the crappie population since I have not been fishing Smithville all that long. I also think this only opens up people to keeping fish in the 8-9in range as anything smaller isn't worth the effort of cleaning.

(W) The current limitations hurt the whole lake. A lot of folks stopped fishing there.

(W) A lot of people are fishing to eat Crappie not trophy fish, I do know when the 9" limit was imposed it lowered the amount of people crappie fishing and hurt the local economy, the fish are really healthy this year because of all the shad last year

(W) I fear that the proposed regulation will do nothing but help the lake

(W) I attended the first meeting on the 9-inch regulation about 16 years ago. I was in favor of the length limit at the time and was under the impression that it was to be a 5-year trial period. Also, enforcement saturation was supposed to happen, but as we now know, neither happened. I refer back to a letter that I got from Mark Boone, who was the fisheries biologist dated March 28, 1994. His conclusion then, was that a length limit on Wappapello would be counterproductive. We also now know after nearly 16 years, that is the case- the same conclusion that you recently arrived at also. I would like to mention that your conclusion on most Black Crappie not reaching

the 9-inch length limit has proven to be correct based on my fishing experiences, exclusively in the winter time. I returned many Black Crappie that were just short of the 9 inch limit, that I would have normally kept. They tend to be thicker so many shorter fish were keepers if not for the limit. I also know of only one place on Wappapello that I can regularly catch Black Crappie.

(W) not sure what the answer is but you need to get the crappie up 12 inches and over like Mississippi has

(W) I am a long-time fisherman and have conditions whether away. Would to see changes.

(W) The majority of fish I throw back are 8 3/4 inch

(W) Under the old regulations. Fished all day and only had 1 keeper.

(W) Personally, after fishing for crappie in other states I believe you need to ask for their assistance.

(W) I have caught a ton of 8 7/8-inch crappie and had to throw them back. I have to catch at least 15 to 1 to get a keeper.

(W) I feel like the limit in place now has really taken a toll on the fishing. You can fish all day and catch 150+ fish and out of all the fish caught you may have 5 keepers if you're lucky. And with that being said the economy around the lake has went downhill by a land slide.

(W) I have fish Wappapello lake for over 45 years when you mdc put a size limit on the lake it started going downhill quickly now for the most part you might catch 20 keepers out of 200+ crappie..i will not go to this place for crappie anymore til the condition change ..it's not only the size limits restriction it's also the water level that changes when they move up to spawn...I live 15 miles from the lake but choose to fish other waters because of the poor quality of fish in the lake ..MDC AN THE CORP HAS MESSED THIS FISHERY UP .NOW YOU WANT TOO TRY AN FIX IT I DONT THINK YOU WILL EVER GET IT BACK TOO WHERE IT WAS JUST 10 YRS AGO...BUT I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST

(W) I have gone from crappie fishing 30 plus weekends to 10 or less bc of the POOR fishing. You can catch 50 to 100 crappie a day with 10 or less being over the 9 inches. Makes you quit going bc of the price of gas and bait. I think it will help the businesses in the area because more people will start going more and start buying more gas, bait and food products from business at the lake. I think if MDC is going to take time to do a survey on crappie fishing and how anglers are feeling about current regulations then MD should do the same with the bureaucratic crap concerning wild hogs and CWD. Some of you people have it in your head that you know something, but you don't.

(W) Last year was the best year for fishing Wappapello lake I have personally had in years, I think the biggest problem now is lowering the lake to winter pool, its killing off all the vegetation in the water l, years ago before there was ever a winter pool or summer pool the lake was full of vegetation and the fish were bigger, but the lake is now overrun with short fish, but also too this is Wappapello lake, this will never produce fish like Mississippi crappie

(W) In your initial statement, you said that more than 50% of the crappie population is black crappie. I have definitely not found that to be true, in my case. I catch probably 90% white crappie, but I assume your sampling is correct.

(B) I'm 63 years old. I have been purchasing a season boat pass for the past 4 years at Smithville lake. I've been fishing here since the lakes inception. I've caught more and larger crappie when it was only Tremble Wildlife Area. After being told by Conservation Agents to keep all the crappie from my local reservoirs and state lakes ie. Blind pony, Pony Express and others, this allows for the next generations of crappie to get larger do to the increase of food supply per crappie. I've put this suggestion to use every chance I get and can speak from experience that this does work. It's remarkable how quickly the crappie shows this to be true. It is my hypothesis: If this was an immediate change the crappie population would show an increase in size by next spring due to the decrease of crappie population an increase of bait fish for the rest of the crappie.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Best regards:

(W) Last trip i used 12 dozen minnows and kept 13 over 9in. We caught well over 100 that mornin. That's not good odds and 13 fish aint worth the 45mn drive. Thanks

Size Limit

(S) Length should be 10".

(S) I think the length limit should be 10 inches and only 10 a day. Smithville lake being so expensive to put your boat on.

(S) I think that 10inches should be the length limit and only 15. I also think that with this lake being so the expensive

(S) Take the limit completely off for one year

(S) Decrease the size and encourage anglers to keep the larger creel limit

(S) I would support a slot where larger crappie should be released for the next few years as well. Possibly all fish over 13" should be returned to force anglers to keep smaller fish and let the larger ones go.

(S) Thinning the black Crappie out would make Smithville a better fishery! Do this for 5 years and then go to a 10" length and 20 fish limits...

(S) I say hurt only because of what was already mentioned about black crappie overpopulating the lake do to their growth cycle. I would also like to see a slot limit put into place at some point. I feel that 9" crappie is too small to keep and keep a healthy population of bigger fish in the lake. I would like to see in the future a limit consisting of crappie between 10 and 12 inches may be kept. But all others must be released. That is once the lake population gets back to a more balanced level.

(S) I have no desire to harvest Crappie less than 9 in. in length for table fair. However, I would be willing t harvest them and relocate to local farm ponds or other.

(S) I hate slot limits and not over" limits. Some people would be clipping tails. Some lakes have a 15" limit of black bass, but a shorter limit on spotted bass. If someone can't identify fish, they should not be keeping any.

(S)...would prefer 10" plus
(W) I feel the 9 in limit has hurt not only the fishing but the businesses around the lake more and more bait shops go under every year due to lack of business. I fish 2-3-time a week. I would fish Wappapello 2-3 times a week if i could keep enough to make it worth the trip. But instead i take my money out of state.
(W) Drop the 9" to many fish in the 8-7" range
(W) I fish Wappapello at least 4 months a year's 2-3 times a week and in my opinion there's way too many under sized fish that need culled from the lake along with more of the larger sized white females being released. A slot limit comes to mind where 7 to 10-inch fish are keepers and 10 to 12" fish are released and larger fish may be harvested. I would just like to be able to go out and catch a nice mess of keeper crappie and not spend all day just trying to 6 or 8 barely legal crappie
(W) It's not the regulations as much as it is the lake. There's no structure but yet it's a crime to add structure. The best thing for this lake would be a slot limit. Keep up to 30 under 9 or 5 over 12 nothing in between.
(W) pull the length limit completely and let people fish what is there
(W) I'm not really sure that putting this new regulation into effect would really help reduce the number of black crappie, but maybe by removing the minimum 9" limit would reduce the overall population of smaller crappie.
(B) Should be 10" and 20 limit

Catch Limit

(S) If this creel limit is approved, how long will it remain in place before pulling back to a smaller creel limit? And will there be any efforts to bring restock the White Crappie population? I worry that if the limit is at 30, then brought back to 15, we will still have the same problem. I would like to see the limit pull back even further to 8-9 fish. I say this given how heavy this lake is fished.
(S) Just make it a limit of 30 crappie, only 15 may be white. That would insure black crappie are harvested if people wanted to take 30 crappie
(W) Should be 15 fish max. Length 9" min. With 5 of the 15-fish max. 5 being allowed to be under 9". This will weed out some of the smaller ones. They do this in some lakes in Mississippi.
(W) I think it should just be a limit of 30 with no length restrictions personally
(W) I'd like to see a 50-creel limit for a year with a slot limit of 10-12
(W) I think the limit to keep things stable you need a 30 limit, but no more than 15 under 9. But, if I catch 30 over 9, I should be able to keep all 30.
(W) increase the creel to 30 yet allow 15 blacks and 15 whites. or raise the length to 12" on whites and no length on the blacks.
(W) I do not want the limit of 15 over 9 inches. This method has already failed on wap. Lake in the past with a historical 10 fish limit

(W) I believe that a limit of 50 would be beneficial. It would encourage more anglers and would eliminate the proliferation of small specimens and allow general growth in the remaining population. Implement this for 2-3 years and reevaluate
(W) I don't want to have to measure each fish and keep 2 limit totals. No specific number above and below 9
(W) Allowing anglers to keep 15 crappie above nine inches in length of the 30 daily limit would give them something to look forward to bring home. A regulation allowing anglers to keep 15 smaller crappie and 15 crappie nine inches or above would be satisfactory with me also.
(B) I think it should be 15 a day with a 9in size limit

General Suggestions

(S) Alternate days like this: If your last name begins with a consonant, you can fish on days which names begin with a consonant. If your last name begins with a vowel, you can fish on any day which the name of the day also begins with a vowel. Keep size and limit numbers the same as current regulation.
(W) I think spider rigs should be limited to 3 poles just like other fishermen are.
(W) you have to wait 5 years and no change. do it got to try something.
(W) I have fished Wappapello since I was a kid. I'm 44 now so it's a lot of years... Wappapello needs a 12-inch length limit and structure lot of trees, brush piles and MDC needs to encourage the use of PVC type structures. They are good for the lake... It's insane how much money good crappie fishing brings to a community. And steady lake levels I know the lake was built for flood control but kill 2 birds with one stone... it could still be used for flood control and have huge crappie so people would come from all around... 12 inch length limit, 15 per person a day, Lots of structure-pvc brush piles added it would work... why can't you use Wappapello as a test lake for PVC trees they could be removed if it didn't work but it would work... ***** thank you guys for finally seeing we do have a problem
(W) The lack of food has kept the crappie form getting bigger. I suggest a large stock of breeding minnows, small enough for small crappie to can feed on. The gizzard shad in the lake are too big for small crappie, they need a different breed that stays small.
(W) Crappie don't have enough to eat it seems like. What if tons of small shad were dumped onto the lakes that do not grow over 2inches in length. They would reproduce thus giving black and white crappie plenty to feed on
(W) There are probably too many crappie for the food supply available, so maybe this would allow the others to grow larger and faster. I'm not sure if this is really the case, but I have been told by others that Wappapello has an overabundance of gizzard shad which grow rapidly and outgrow the needed size for crappie to feed on. Does Wappapello have threadfin shad, which grow slower and therefore are a better baitfish? If not, maybe stocking threadfin shad would eventually solve part of the problem with under-sized crappie.
(W) Take Mississippi for example they have either a 15 or 30 limit, but they have a 12 inch minimum size. Even if it hurts our fishing here for a couple of years we need to do something to get better fish. And I know the father south is a longer growing season but it's not that much and heck even if we did 10 or 11 would b a huge improvement. I fished Grenada lake this past

spring in massive flood waters and the smallest crappie we caught was 13.5 inches. Our state is just embarrassing to talk about in the crappie world.

(W) I'm willing to try anything to increase the average size of the crappie in the lake. Have you thought about tagging and stocking the lake with some of the Mississippi strain of Crappie? I fish several tournaments each year with Crappie Masters at the Corp. Lakes where the fish are kept in tanks to be released. Maybe you could work something out.

Conservation Agents

(S) You would like to see more fish and game checks. I myself have witnessed people keeping anything that they catch. And the really sad part is when you call the conservation department to report someone and you get a voicemail. I left a message and 3 days later he called me back. How great of service is that. Thanks, MCD for being on top of your job. Not just on the MCD because Smithville has their own Park Rangers to. So much money to fish this lake and just terrible fishing

(S) We fish for legal length crappie. We see many bait fishermen have to throw back the small crappie that eventually die. We recently saw 5 floating crappie at Rt W bridge just from one boat!

(W) If the game wardens would crack down on people over catching crappie in the winter this would help also. I hear stories of locals going out there and catching over their limit and hiding them in their rod holder box stashing them in coveralls so if they do get checked they are well hidden in the boats. Other instances is locals going out there and catching their limit taking them back and going back out again all day long.

Open House

(S) The meeting was very well done and the facts presented absolutely support the code adjustments proposed.

(W) limit pole use to one pole per person

(W) I think the group of people that put the meeting on in Poplar Bluff did an exceptional job explaining the history of the lake and the proposed regulations are just about perfect.

(W) I am in total agreement with the new proposed regulation for Wappapello Lake, even more so after hearing Dave Knuth's presentation last night at Poplar Bluff. Good job Southeast Fisheries and Administration. Keep up the good work of improving the resources of our State!

Smithville Lake

Support of New Regulation

This is a good proposal. Should have been started several years back when hundreds (thousands) of old black crappie died in the heat of summer.

Hope it can get into the regulations soon.

I believe this to be a step in the right direction. I support it wholeheartedly. I fish mostly Truman and LOZ, but this change would make it worthwhile to bring the boat back up north and make regular trips to Smithville.

When we fish we'll only catch a few that are at the 9 inch length the majority are just under and are thrown back. It gets discouraging to even go once past the spawn. I'm all in favor of this, we'll be catching pretty close to the 9 inches and helping the others grow bigger, win win.

I attended the meeting at the Litton Center and am totally in favor of the regulation changes. If approval is granted it will be an interesting to see if fishermen will see the vital importance of their role in what is trying to be accomplished. This will work if and only if the allowed number of the under 9 inch crappie are kept when caught and not returned to the lake. If fishermen do not they will have only themselves to blame if the current trend continues. I plan on having a lot of crappie to eat at my house.

From personal experience in trying to manage crapie populations in my private ponds I have found that most people do not want to, or will not, harvest smaller crappie. I hope the regulation change will help. I have had success in increasing the average size of crappie in our two larger ponds (5 acres each) by personally harvesting as many of the "potato chip-fillet-sized crappie and encouraging others to do the same. Management does work if people will cooperate.

Disclaimer: In the past I fished Smithville lake frequently but have not fished there recently. Friends have related catching hundreds of the small crappie in one day.

I like the new proposal

(S) I don't really keep fish until fall or winter time a few in the spring but I believe a 30-fish limit would help Smithville it's a Great Lake and I was raised in Smithville and fish it often I will say my person best crappie from Smithville was 16.5" and it was a black crappie.

General Comments

At Smithville, a large group of guys have been catching and cleaning thousands of crappie a year off the Camp Branch and Paradise Point docks. They keep the larger white crappie and release the smaller blacks. This has been going on for years! I've talked to guys that commented "I used to clean about 6,000 crappie each year from this area, but now I'm down to less than half". That's crazy! Who is policing this? This group of guys is largely responsible for destroying the white crappie population in our lake. I agree with the proposal, but fixing this issue is a part of overall solution!

Thank you for looking into fixing the crappie fishing situation at Smithville lake. We always catch a lot of them when I take my boys out fishing, but very few we catch are keeper size. When would the decision be made to change the regulations though? Still this fishing season or next year? The sooner the better in my opinion.

Smithville is heavily fished, but there seems to be an excessively number of crappie below 9".
Recently went with a friend and caught 40-50. Maybe 6 would have been over 9 inches. We didn't keep any that day. But something needs to change.
I am unsure how the current regulations have impacted the crappie population since I have not been fishing Smithville all that long. I also think this only opens up people to keeping fish in the 8-9in range as anything smaller isn't worth the effort of cleaning.
I agree with the MDC assessment of the crappie population at Smithville. I have caught from 25 to 30 undersized crappie in order to catch a limit of legal fish. I have also seen the black crappie die and measured them to see that they were under 9". I would support harvesting more of these small crappie in order to improve the fishery.

Size Limit

Length should be 10".
I think the length limit should be 10 inches and only 10 a day. Smithville lake being so expensive to put your boat on.
I think that 10inches should be the length limit and only 15. I also think that with this lake being so the expensive
Take the limit completely off for one year
Decrease the size and encourage anglers to keep the larger creel limit
I would support a slot where larger crappie should be released for the next few years as well. Possibly all fish over 13" should be returned to force anglers to keep smaller fish and let the larger ones go.
Thinning the black Crappie out would make Smithville a better fishery! Do this for 5 years and then go to a 10" length and 20 fish limit...
I say hurt only because of what was already mentioned about black crappie overpopulating the lake do to their growth cycle. I would also like to see a slot limit put into place at some point. I feel that 9" crappie is too small to keep and keep a healthy population of bigger fish in the lake. I would like to see in the future a limit consisting of crappie between 10 and 12 inches may be kept. But all others must be released. That is once the lake population gets back to a more balanced level.
I have no desire to harvest Crappie less than 9 in. in length for table fair. However, I would be willing t harvest them and relocate to local farm ponds or other.
I hate slot limits and not over" limits. Some people would be clipping tails. Some lakes have a 15" limit of black bass, but a shorter limit on spotted bass. If someone can't identify fish, they should not be keeping any.
...would prefer 10" plus

Catch Limit

If this creel limit is approved, how long will it remain in place before pulling back to a smaller creel limit? And will there be any efforts to bring restock the White Crappie population? I worry that if the limit is at 30, then brought back to 15, we will still have the same problem. I would
--

like to see the limit pull back even further to 8-9 fish. I say this given how heavy this lake is fished.

Just make it a limit of 30 crappie, only 15 may be white. That would insure black crappie are harvested if people wanted to take 30 crappie

General Suggestions

Alternate days like this: If your last name begins with a consonant, you can fish on days which names begin with a consonant. If your last name begins with a vowel, you can fish on any day which the name of the day also begins with a vowel. Keep size and limit numbers the same as current regulation.

Conservation Agents

You would like to see more fish and game checks. I myself have witnessed people keeping anything that they catch. And the really sad part is when you call the conservation department to report someone and you get a voicemail. I left a message and 3 days later he called me back. How great of service is that. Thanks, MCD for being on top of your job. Not just on the MCD because Smithville has their own Park Rangers to. So much money to fish this lake and just terrible fishing

We fish for legal length crappie. We see many bait fishermen have to throw back the small crappie the eventually die. We recently saw 5 floating crappie at Rt W bridge just from one boat!

Open House

The meeting was very well done, and the facts presented absolutely support the code adjustments proposed.

Lake Wappapello

Support of New Regulation

It is about time
I support proposal (X2)
I hope this proposal passes
I support the change 100%. The homework has been done and makes sense to me!
I hope this proposal passes
I hope this proposal passes 100%
I think you are headed in the right direction
I support the regulation change.
It's well worth a try
Do what needs to be done
Sounds OK
Move forward with new Reg.
I think this is a wonderful change. I wish it could take effect sooner!
I fully support the new regulation and am looking forward to improved crappie fishing @ Wappapello.
I hope it works just gotta try something
I support the new proposed regulation change and will attend the September 17th meeting at Poplar Bluff also. <div>I appreciate all the effort that has been put into this proposed change, just wish it had not taken this long to be addressed. See you on the 17th in PB!</div>
I think this change would greatly help to regulate both black and white crappie.
Sounds like MDC has studied the black crappie max length and come to a reasonable recommendation on the limits.
This change is way overdue! Glad to see the MDC is considering the changes that have been needed for a few years now. Helping reduce the population of small undersized fish should help the overall fish population of the lake, including bass, catfish, and all other species. Baitfish will be more plentiful for larger fish and it will give the lake a better balance. Not to mention putting a lot of great table fare in peoples friers!
Please change it to the proposed regulations. Love to fish for crappie but when all I catch are the 83/4 inch ones makes it pretty tough to have fresh fish... Please change the limits
I think the proposed regulations that the meeting was about will definitely help the crappie harvest.
I think the proposed regulation change will be a good thing and can't go into effect soon enough. Thanks
I like the new proposed regulation. I think it would help reduce the amount of smaller crappie in the lake by allowing anglers to harvest at least 15 to 30 small crappie.

If I can improve the growth of fish and the fishing opportunity at the lake. I by following the proposed regulation, I am in favor of the regulation. It will also give me the opportunity to take some fish home with me while at the same time bring more anglers to the area which will improve the economic growth of the Wappapello area.
I am new to fishing Wappapello and support any decision made by MDC. The fish there are smaller than Lake of the Ozarks and Beaver Lake. We caught about 50 8" crappie one day while only catching about 6 keepers. Thank you for working to make a better experience.
We would welcome the proposed change in regulation. We do not fish as much as we used to because we cannot catch fish over 9 inches. We will fish a lot more if the change is made.
I believe Wappapello is over abundant with white crappie below the current length limit as well as with the amount of fishing pressure the fish above the length limit are being taken out in vast number therefore making it difficult to catch more than 10 legal fish on any given day .. the propose regulation would help a great deal .. looking forward to the changes...
I would like a 30-crappie limit with only 15 over 9 inches.
I feel the 30-daily limit, only keeping 15 over 9inches would work.
If the limit was changed to 30 limit with no more than 15 over 9 inches there would be more people fish because they would be able to keep their 30 and I don't think that will hurt the lake at all. I believe it will improve the growth of the fish. And it will also help the economy around the lake.

General Comments

A lot of people are fishing to eat Crappie not trophy fish, I do know when the 9" limit was imposed it lowered the amount of people crappie fishing and hurt the local economy,the fish are really healthy this year because of all the shad last year
The current limitations hurt the whole lake. A lot of folks stopped fishing there.
I fear that the proposed regulation will do nothing but help the lake
I attended the first meeting on the 9-inch regulation about 16 years ago. I was in favor of the length limit at the time and was under the impression that it was to be a 5-year trial period. Also, enforcement saturation was supposed to happen, but as we now know, neither happened. I refer back to a letter that I got from Mark Boone, who was the fisheries biologist dated March 28, 1994. His conclusion then, was that a length limit on Wappapello would be counterproductive. We also now know after nearly 16 years, that is the case- the same conclusion that you recently arrived at also. <div style="text-align: right;">I</div> would like to mention that your conclusion on most Black Crappie not reaching the 9-inch length limit has proven to be correct based on my fishing experiences, exclusively in the winter time. I returned many Black Crappie that were just short of the 9-inch limit, that I would have normally kept. They tend to be thicker so many shorter fish were keepers if not for the limit. I also know of only one place on Wappapello that I can regularly catch Black Crappie.
not sure what the answer is but you need to get the crappie up 12 inches and over like Mississippi has,
I am a long-time fisherman and have conditions whether away. Would to see changes.
The majority of fish I throw back are 8 3/4 inch

Under the old regulations. Fished all day and only had 1 keeper.
Personally, after fishing for crappie in other states I believe you need to ask for their assistance.
I have caught a ton of 8 7/8-inch crappie and had to throw them back. I have to catch at least 15 to 1 to get a keeper.
I feel like the limit in place now has really taken a toll on the fishing. You can fish all day and catch 150+ fish and out of all the fish caught you may have 5 keepers if you're lucky. And with that being said the economy around the lake has went downhill by a land slide.
I have fish Wappapello lake for over 45 years when you mdc put a size limit on the lake it started going downhill quickly now for the most part you might catch 20 keepers out of 200+ crappie..i will not go to this place for crappie anymore til the condition change ..its not only the size limits restriction its also the water level that changes when they move up to spawn...I live 15 miles from the lake but choose to fish other waters because of the poor quality of fish in the lake ..MDC AN THE CORP HAS MESSED THIS FISHERY UP .NOW YOU WANT TOO TRY AN FIX IT I DONT THINK YOU WILL EVER GET IT BACK TOO WHERE IT WAS JUST 10 YRS AGO...BUT I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST
I have gone from crappie fishing 30 plus weekends to 10 or less bc of the POOR fishing . You can catch 50 to 100 crappie a day with 10 or less being over the 9 inches. Makes you quit going bc of the price of gas and bait. I think it will help the businesses in the area because more people will start going more and start buying more gas, bait and food products from business at the lake. I think if MDC is going to take time to do a survey on crappie fishing and how anglers are feeling about current regulations then MD should do the same with the bureaucratic crap concerning wild hogs and CWD. Some of you people have it in your head that you know something, but you don't.
Last year was the best year for fishing Wappapello lake I have personally had in years, I think the biggest problem now is lowering the lake to winter pool, its killing off all the vegetation in the water l, years ago before there was ever a winter pool or summer pool the lake was full of vegetation and the fish were bigger, but the lake is now overrun with short fish, but also too this is Wappapello lake, this will never produce fish like Mississippi crappie
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Open Houses

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Comments from Both Locations

Support of New Regulation

I think the change will be a good thing!!

General Comments

I'm 63 years old. I have been purchasing a season boat pass for the past 4 years at Smithville lake. I've been fishing here since the lakes inception. I've caught more and larger crappie when it was only Tremble Wildlife Area. After being told by Conservation Agents to keep all the crappie from my local reservoirs and state lakes ie. Blind pony, Pony Express and others, this allows for the next generations of crappie to get larger do to the increase of food supply per crappie. I've put this suggestion to use every chance I get and can speak from experience that this does work. It's remarkable how quickly the crappie show this to be true. It is my hypothesis: If this was an immediate change the crappie population would show an increase in size by next spring due to the decrease of crappie population an increase of bait fish for the rest of the crappie. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.
Best regards:

Size Limit

Should be 10", and 20 limit

Catch Limit

I think it should be 15 a day with a 9 in size limit

MDC Crappie OPEN HOUSES

The Missouri Department of Conservation seeks public input on a possible regulation change for crappie at Wappapello and Smithville reservoirs. This change is intended to increase harvest opportunities for anglers and improve the crappie fishery. Current crappie regulations at both reservoirs have resulted in large populations of small fish.

Under the proposed regulation, anglers would be able to keep a daily limit of 30 crappie, with no more than 15 fish over 9 inches.

Stop by to learn more and share your opinions at three MDC public open-house forums

Smithville

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Jerry Litton Visitor Center
16311 County Road DD, Smithville, MO 64089
August 28, 6-8 p.m.

Wappapello

New Home General Baptist Church
1864 Hwy AA, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
September 17, 6-8 p.m.

Greenville Elementary Gymnasium
195 Walnut St., Greenville, MO 63944
September 18, 6-8 p.m.



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For More Information, contact
MDC Public Involvement Coordinator
Michele Baumer at 573-522-4115, ext. 3350
or Michele.Baumer@mdc.mo.gov.

Proposed Regulation Changes for Crappie Fishing

The Missouri Department of Conservation seeks public input on a possible regulation change for crappie at Wappapello and Smithville reservoirs. This change is intended to increase harvest opportunities for anglers and improve the crappie fishery. Current crappie regulations at both reservoirs have resulted in large populations of small fish.

Under the proposed regulation, anglers would be able to keep a daily limit of 30 crappie, with no more than 15 fish over 9 inches.

About You

Your Name: _____

Your City: _____ Your ZIP Code: _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Age: ☐ Under 19 ☐ 20 to 34 ☐ 35 to 54 ☐ 55 to 74 ☐ 75 and older

Do you consider yourself an angler? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How did you hear about the proposed regulation changes?

☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio ☐ *Conservationist* Magazine ☐ MDC website ☐ Social media

☐ Other website ☐ MDC employee ☐ Friend or neighbor ☐ Other

Comment Tell us your comments on the proposed regulation changes under consideration for crappie fishing at Wappapello and Smithville reservoirs.

Stay in Touch

☐ Yes, email me with news about MDC's fisheries efforts.

Your email: _____

Be informed and get involved. Learn more and share comments at mdc.mo.gov/CrappieComments or mail your comments to Missouri Department of Conservation
Attention: Policy Coordination
PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102



Proposed Regulation Changes for Crappie Fishing

Do you fish for crappie at Wappapello Lake, Smithville Lake, or both?

- ☐ Wappapello Lake
- ☐ Smithville Lake
- ☐ Both

How many times per year do you fish for crappie at Wappapello Lake, Smithville Lake, or both?

- ☐ 1–10 times/year
- ☐ 11–25 times/year
- ☐ 26–50 times/year
- ☐ 51–75 times/year
- ☐ 75+ times/year

Do you believe the current crappie regulations at Wappapello Lake and Smithville Lake have helped, hurt, or kept the crappie fishing unchanged?

- ☐ Helped
- ☐ Hurt
- ☐ Unchanged

Would you be willing to harvest crappie less than 9 inches in size if you could keep 30 crappie daily?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



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Proposed Regulation Changes for Crappie Fishing at Smithville Lake

The Missouri Department of Conservation seeks public input on a possible regulation change for crappie at Wappapello and Smithville reservoirs. This change is intended to increase harvest opportunities for anglers and improve the crappie fishery. Current crappie regulations at both reservoirs have resulted in large populations of small fish. The existing regulation allows anglers to harvest a daily limit of 15 white and black crappie combined, with a minimum length of 9 inches.

Under the proposed regulation change, there would be no minimum length limit for either species on these two lakes. Anglers would also be able to keep a daily limit of 30 crappie of both species combined, with no more than 15 fish over 9 inches.

Be informed and get involved. Learn more and share comments at www.mdc.mo.gov/CrappieComments or mail your comments to Missouri Department of Conservation, Attention: Policy Coordination, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

